Free passes for cricket match at Ferozeshah Kotla

2212. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Times of India' and other national dailies of the 1st February, 2002, referring to protests and lathicharge on cricket fans outside Ferozeshah Kotla ground as the organisers of the match had allegedly sold out free passes, far inexcess of the capacity; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and how Government propose to ensure that such unhappy situation does not arise in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Delhi & District Cricket Assoacition (DDCA) was asked to give its comments in this regard, DDCA has informed that it had got 26,700 tickets printed against the total capacity of the stadium of 28,000. Out of which hundreds of tickets remain unsold in the branches of Canara bank. DDCA has also informed that the complimentary passes were issued under statutory obligations to about 4000 DDCA members and members of BCCI. These passes were also issued to various sponsors, former and current test players, former and current Ranji players, players of U-14, U-16, U-19 and U-22 teams of DDCA, League Clubs, International and Ranji Trophy panel umpires, High Commissioners of test playing countries, various Government Deaprtments of Central and State Governments, members of match organizing committee, Executive Committee including three Government Nominees, Sports Committee and various Sub-Committees of DDCA. Apart from this several requests were received by the members of Organizing Committees from various person for passes and the same were given to them subject to availability.

The sale of tickets or issue of complimentary passes for any cricket match is entirely within the purview of BCCI or its affiliated organizing unit and the Government has no role to play in this regard.